

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented process for sharing images comprising the process actions of:
 - inputting images at a hosting client;
 - annotating said images with metadata associated with the same image located in a different location at said hosting client, comprising
 - locating the same image as said image in other locations;
 - extracting all annotation data from said same image in said other location;
 - annotating said image with said annotation data extracted from said image in said other location;
 - creating a local index of said images and local database of said images at said hosting client;
 - synchronizing said hosting client's local index with a master index of a central server, said master index comprising all images available for sharing; and
 - providing images from said hosting client.
2. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 1 wherein the annotating process action further comprises a process action of manually annotating at least one of said input images.
3. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 1 wherein the annotating process action further comprises a process action of automatically annotating at least one of said input images.
4. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented process of Claim 1 wherein said process action of annotating at least one of said input images further comprises, at least one of:
 - annotating said image with the time it was created;
 - annotating said image with the location that it depicts;

annotating said image with a camera orientation when said image was captured;

annotating said image with the level of privacy associated with the image;

annotating said image with the author of the image;

annotating said image with its modification history;

annotating said image with its user rating;

annotating said image with an imputed location based on the time and location said image was created;

annotating said image with usage statistics;

annotating said image with any and all user annotations;

annotating said image with the owner of the metadata;

annotating said image with a server-provided user rating; and

annotating said image with metadata associated with the same image located in a different location.

5. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 4 wherein said process action of annotating said image with the time it was created comprises at least one of:

annotating said image with a time by using a date stamp provided by a camera that created the image;

annotating said image with a time by using a time stamp provided by a Global Positioning System integrated with the camera that created the image;

annotating said image with a time that was manually input by a user.

6. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 4 wherein said process action of annotating said image with the location which it depicts comprises at least one of:

annotating said image with a location by using a location stamp provided by a Global Positioning System integrated with the camera that created the image;

annotating said image with a location by using a location stamp provided deriving a location from cell site location provided by a camera integrated with the camera that created the image;

annotating said image with a location by using a name-to-geolocation translation application that provides the location said image was captured;

annotating said image with a location derived from a map indicating where said image was taking; and

annotating said image with a location that was manually input by a user.

7. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 6 wherein location is provided in the format of latitude and longitude.

8. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 4 wherein the camera orientation is provided in the format of yaw, pitch and roll.

9. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 4 wherein the process action of annotating the privacy level of the image comprises the process action of annotating said image with a privacy level that is manually input by the user.

10. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 9 wherein the privacy level that is manually input by a user further comprises the process action of selecting from a default setting of having the image accessible to only the user.

11. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 9 wherein the privacy level that is manually input by a user further comprises the process action of selecting from a default setting of having the image accessible to all users.

12. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 4 wherein the process action of annotating the image with an image modification history comprises at least one of:

- annotating said image with annotation data as to how it was modified;
- annotating said image with annotation data as to when it was modified;
- annotating said image with annotation data as to by whom it was modified;

and

annotating said image with any other modifications made to annotation data made at the time of modification.

13. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 4 wherein the process action of annotating the image with a server-provided user rating comprises the process action of annotating said image with an indication as to how closely said image matched a search criteria.

14. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 3 wherein the process action of automatically annotating an image further comprises at least one:

- using face recognition techniques to identify a specific person in the image and annotating the image with an identifier for the person;

- using automated vision techniques to determine whether the image depicts a natural or man-made object and annotating the image as either natural or man-made;

- using pixel comparison techniques with images of known content and comparing the image to determine its content and annotating said image as to what it is; and

- extracting available parameters associated with the input image and annotating the image with the available parameters.

15. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 4 wherein the process action of annotating said image with usage statistics further comprises at least one of:

annotating the image with how often the image was posted to a website;
annotating the image with the times the image was posted to a website;
annotating the image with the number of times the image was emailed;
annotating the image with how relevant the image was found to be in a search; and

annotating the image as to how many times it was requested.

16. (Original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 4 wherein the process action of annotating the image with an imputed location further comprises the process actions of:

identifying the time and location said image was created;
identifying other images taken close to the same time and with the same camera when said image was created;
imputing to said image the location of said other images taken at close to the same time; and
annotating said image with said imputed location.

17. (cancelled)

18. (original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 1 wherein the process action of synchronizing further comprises the process actions of:

storing changes to local index and local database of said images at said hosting client in a modification log;
periodically connecting said hosting client to said central server; and
synchronizing said local index and said local database of said hosting client with said master index of said central server using said modification log.

19-40 cancelled.

41. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented process for sharing images comprising the process actions of:

inputting images at a hosting client;
annotating said images with metadata associated with the same image located in a different location at said hosting client;
creating a local index of said images and local database of said images at said hosting client;
providing images from said hosting client.

42. (currently amended) The computer-implemented process of Claim 41 wherein said process action of annotating said input image further comprises, at least one of:

annotating said image with the time it was created;
annotating said image with the location that it depicts;
annotating said image with the level of privacy associated with the image;
annotating said image with the author of the image;
annotating said image with its modification history;
annotating said image with its user rating;
annotating said image with an imputed location based on the time and location said image was created;
annotating said image with usage statistics;
annotating said image with any and all user annotations; and
annotating said image with the owner of the metadata; and
~~annotating said image with metadata associated with the same image located in a different location.~~

43. (original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 42 wherein said process action of annotating said image with the location which it depicts comprises at least one of:

annotating said image with a location by using a location stamp provided by a Global Positioning System integrated with the camera that created the image;

annotating said image with a location by using a location stamp provided deriving a location from cell site location provided by a camera integrated with the camera that created the image; annotating said image with a location by using a name-to-geolocation translation application that provides the location said image was captured;

annotating said image with a location derived from a map indicating where said image was taking; and

annotating said image with a location that was manually input by a user.

44. (original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 42 wherein the process action of annotating the image with an imputed location further comprises the process actions of:

identifying the time and location said image was created;

identifying other images taken close to the same time and with the same camera when said image was created;

imputing to said image the location of said other images taken at close to the same time with a same camera; and

annotating said image with said imputed location.

45. (original) The computer-implemented process of Claim 41 further comprising the wherein the process action of annotating said image with metadata associated with the same image located in a different location further comprises the process actions of:

locating the same image as said image in other locations;

extracting all annotation data from said same image in said other location;

annotating said image with said annotation data extracted from said image in said other location.

Claims 46-54 (cancelled).